

## Thomas Jefferson to Andrew Jackson, March 21, 1807, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### THOMAS JEFFERSON TO JACKSON.

Washington, March 21, 1807.

*Sir* , In my letter of Dec. 3. answering yours, which offered the service of a Corps of Volunteers, I informed you that the Legislature had then under consideration in what way they would authorize the Executive to accept those Patriotic tenders. They accordingly passed the act of which I now inclose you a copy.

Altho the present state of things on the western side of the Missisipi does not threaten any immediate collision with our Neighbors in that quarter and it is our wish they should remain undisturbed until an amicable adjustment may take place; yet as this does not depend on ourselves alone, it is prudent to be prepared to meet any movements which may occur. The law of a former session of congress for keeping a Body of 100,000 militia in readiness for service at a moments warning, is still in force; but by the Act now inclosed the service of Volunteers may be accepted which will of course render a resort to the former act unnecessary. In consequence there fore, of the patriotic zeal which prompted your former offer, I now solicit your best endeavors towards carrying this Act into execution. The persons who shall engage, will not be called from their homes until some Aggression committed or intended, shall render it necessary. When called into Action, it will not be for a lounging, but for an Active and perhaps distant service. I know the effect of this consideration in kindling that ardor which prevails for this service, and I count on it for filling up the numbers requisite without delay. To yourself I am sure it must be as desirable as it is to me, to transfer this service from the great mass of the militia under your charge

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to that portion of them to whose habits and enterprize active and distant service is most congenial.

With respect to the organizing and Officering those who shall be engaged within your state, the Act itself will be your guide: And as it is desirable we should be kept informed of the progress of this business, I must pray you to report the same from time to time to the Secretary at War who will correspond with you on all the details arising out of it. Accept my salutations and assurances of great esteem and respect